produce, as spices in commodity form are more vulnerable to price competition. By value addition, branding and marketing of branded products nationally, price fluctuations could be contained to a great extend leading to price stability and better price realization to farmers.

Spices Board is also helping the exporters through various promotional programmes and enhancing their capabilities in value addition, technology, quality, packaging and other promotional efforts.

Rehabilitation measures for child labour

*594. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what effective and comprehensive measures have been adopted by Government after ban on child labour came into force, to ensure that the rescued children are properly looked after and given vocational or any other training so that they become self-sufficient in course of time;

(b) what long-term plans for proper enforcement and rehabilitation have been drawn by Government, in consultation with State Governments and NGOs, etc. in this regard; and

(c) what has been, the financial implications towards this rehabilitation programme during the three months it has been in existence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in hazardous Occupations and Processes. At present, there are 15 such occupations and 57 processes prohibited under the Act. These include two occupations *i.e.* employment of children as domestic workers or servants and employment of children in dhabas (road-side eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels, tea-shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centers which have been added recently in the list of occupations *w.e.f.* 10.10.06. For the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, the Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of 20 States of the country. Under the scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into the special schools where they are provided with education, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. Vocational Training is also

one of the very important component under the scheme. These children are provided with skills which are necessary for them to earn better livelihood later in their lives.

(b) and (c) As the State Governments are the appropriate Government for implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, in their respective areas, they have been advised to take all appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the recent ban. In this connection, the then Union Labour Minister had taken up with all the Chief Ministers for creating awareness generation and effective enforcement of the ban. Government of India also held consultations with the State Governments, NGOs, and other stake holders at Zonal level conferences held all over the country during the months of September and October, 2006. During these Zonal Conferences at Bangalore (Southern Zone), Guwahati (North East Zone), Ranchi (Eastern Zone), Amritsar (Northern Zone) and Goa (Western Zone), the State Governments discussed their action plans for effecting the ban and for the rehabilitation of these children. NGOs and other members of the civil society were also requested during the consultations for their suggestions as also to supplement the efforts of the Government in creating awareness generation, and providing rehabilitation in terms of food, clothing and shelter. The effectivenss of measures adopted by States was reviewed in January, 2007. Government has also formed a Core Group for convergence of Ministry of Labour and Employment with various other Ministries *viz.*, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Human Resource Development, Rural Development, Urban Housing and Poverty Alleviation and Social Justice and Empowerment for the rehabilitation of child labour and their families under the welfare schemes of these ministries also. Under the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) Rs. 108 crores were spent for the rehabilitation of child labour during the last financial year.

Strengthening SHGs

*595. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are strengthening Self Help Groups;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the role of public and Government in this regard, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and